

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

State Dept review completed pages 1, 3-4

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

MORI/CDF
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3-4ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLYSUBJECT: Vietnam Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting, April 17, 1970

Cambodian Developments: Ambassador Sullivan said that he had just seen French Ambassador Lucet. The French want to know what we will do about Cambodia. They are worried about Sihanouk. They said that Le Duan was in Peking on the way to Moscow. Sihanouk has told Manac'h that all journalists captured by the Viet Cong are safe and are in the hands of his troops. He said that later this month he would go to southern China to organize a "united China front" with North Vietnamese representatives, Prince Souphanouvong, and Tho of the PRG. He was reluctant about the French initiative because he would not want to sit at the same table with Lon Nol. Lucet, after conveying this information, said that France had no advance information about what Malik would say. He sees some hope that the proposal would carry. The French will investigate further in Moscow.

Ambassador Sullivan also said that a Russian in the U. N. Secretariat who is normally reliable had said that Malik's statement was serious and carefully considered. The Russians here told us that such a statement would have had to be cleared in Hanoi. Ambassador Sullivan said that the Russian move may indicate that Hanoi is having problems. He said a recent COSVN directive showed that the Viet Cong forces were in a bad way. He added that Sihanouk, when asked by Manac'h whether he would join the guerrillas, said he might do so "some day."

Ambassador Bunker's Testimony: Sullivan said that Ambassador Bunker would now testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the 14th. He thought his main problems would be Chau and the South Vietnamese cross border operations into Cambodia.

The Paris Meetings: Ambassador Habib had called to say that yesterday's meeting had been the "low point" to date, according to Ambassador Sullivan.

Economic Issues: Mr. Nooter said he would go up Monday before the Moss Committee. He would try not to say too much. He said most of the South Vietnamese are thinking in useful terms about their economic problems, but it is not sure that they will pass the basic law before Ambassador Bunker comes home.

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INFORMATION

April 21, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: John Holdridge

SUBJECT: Vietnam Ad Hoc Group

Attached at Tab A is a memorandum for the files covering the Vietnam Ad Hoc Working Group meeting of April 17.

Attachment

JHH:WRS:alh (4/21/70)

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Sullivan asked about the prospects for the \$100 million supplemental. Mr. Nooter said that AID would need more than the \$220 million given for the CIP but they do not know if they will need a full \$100 million. He said they will try to get it out of the existing budget.

Land Reform: Regarding land reform, Mr. Nooter said he had met with the staff people of Senators Packwood's, Magnuson's, and Muskie's offices. He said they now have a bill for the redemption of the bonds in U. S. currency. This would cost over \$300 million. Moss's proposal (to give \$200 million for several years in any way that would be helpful) would be better.

The VSSG: Ambassador Sullivan asked what the status of the VSSG papers was. General Blanchard said they were meeting on Monday to consider the country paper and the manpower paper. He also said there would still be a cease-fire annex to the papers, but they will not try to make political judgments. There was some discussion that NSDM 52 and the quarterly VSSG report would put DOD and CIA out of business.

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Phoenix: Mr. Nooter said that Byron Engle believes it would not be good to turn Phoenix over to the national police. Colby favored this proposal, but it should not be done. Ambassador Sullivan said that this is not Mr. Colby's position. He wants to make somebody responsible at the local level and district and province level and the police should do that, but the committees would continue to function. Mr. Nooter said this was not the way he understood it. In any case, Mr. Engle thought the special police should handle it. General Blanchard said that Mr. Engle and others thought the police were simply not ready now to take it over. Mr. Nooter said the trouble was that nobody back here was in charge of the program and could decide the issue. Sullivan pointed out that this is the kind of thing Saigon had to decide. The discussion continued for some time, and there was finally agreement that a telegram would be sent out expressing concern.

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